

CLAIMS

1. Draining unit particularly for a press or maceration vat, comprising at least one elongated, profiled element which may possibly contain a plurality of spread-out holes, said element extending
5 along the internal wall of the vat of the press and forming a drainage channel together with the wall through contact at two longitudinal side edges, characterised in that the profiled element (1) is interlocked with said wall (3) at one (5) of its side edges (5,5') by means of a connection with an ability to pivot, and is provided with at least one latching and/or retaining means (7,7';14,14') adapted to lock said profiled element (1) in a position with its two side edges (5,5') resting against said internal
10 wall (3) so as to form the drainage channel (4).
2. Draining unit according to claim 1, characterised in that the pivot connection is formed by at least two hinge plate or hinge devices (6) aligned with each other and allowing, in addition to the pivoting movement, limited relative translational displacement between the profiled element (1) and
15 the wall (3) of the vat in a longitudinal direction parallel with the pivoting axis.
3. Unit according to claim 2, characterised in that each hinge plate device or hinge device (6) comprises a spindle (8) interlocked with one (5) of the side edges (5 and 5') of the profiled element (1), and at least one eyelet or hinge (8'), preferably of tubular structure, fixed rigidly on the wall (3) of
20 the vat, said spindle (8) and said at least one eyelet or hinge (8') being mounted and extending so that they can slide a predetermined distance relative to each other.
4. Unit according to any one of claims 1 to 3, characterised in that the longitudinal side edges (5,5') of the trough-shaped profiled element (1) are extended by inwardly folded shoulders (5'')
25 forming two parallel bearing strips for said profiled element (1) in the position in which it is turned down to form the drainage channel (4), the profiled element (1) being shaped so that, in the turned-down position, it defines a drainage channel (4) of triangular, semi-circular, semi-elliptical or rectangular section by cooperation with the wall (3) of the vat.
5. Unit according to any one of claims 1 to 4, characterised in that the profiled element (1) or
30 each component part (1',1'') of the profiled element (1) is associated with a holding device (15) able to retain said element (1) or part (1',1'') in a specific rotary position about the axis of its pivot connection (6), described as the open position, in which the side edge (5') of the element (1) or part (1',1'') not joined by said connection (6) to said wall (3) is located at a spacing from the wall.

6. Unit according to claim 5, characterised in that each holding device (15) locks the element (1) or part (1',1'') in question movably in an intermediate position between the two possible rotary end positions of said element (1) or part (1',1'') about the axis of its pivot connection (6).

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7. Unit according to any one of claims 3 to 6, characterised in that the spindle (8) extends parallel with and at a spacing from the side edge (5) to which it is rigidly connected by an interlocking, preferably plate-shaped bracket (25), and that the tubular hinge (8'), which receives said spindle (8) with an ability to pivot and slide and which is fixed rigidly on the internal surface of the wall (3) of the vat, has a slot-shaped indentation (26) extending from one of its end edges and parallel with its longitudinal direction, to receive the interlocking bracket (25) through engagement of the bracket by translation.

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8. Unit according to claim 7, characterised in that the straight indentation (26) is formed in the tubular wall of the hinge (8') in such a way that engagement of the bracket (25) in the indentation (26) corresponds to locking of the element (1) in an intermediate rotary position of said element (1) about the axis of its pivot connection (6), thus forming a device (15) for holding in rotation.

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9. Unit according to claim 7 or 8, characterised in that each hinge (8') is associated with a stop means (27) interlocked with the wall (3) and located at a spacing from said hinge (8') at the end edge of the hinge adjacent the indentation (26), said stop means (27) limiting sliding displacement of the spindle (8)/bracket (25) assembly.

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10. Unit according to claim 9, characterised in that the stop means (27) has a stationary base (27') and a stop member (27'') mounted in or on the base (27') and adjustable in its position, with removable locking, in the sliding direction of the spindle (8)/bracket (25) assembly, the stop member (27'') in particular being adjustable in its position so as to prevent the spindle (8) from sliding out of engagement with the tubular hinge (8').

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11. Unit according to any one of claims 7 to 9, characterised in that each profiled element (1) is made or shaped in one piece, and that said profiled element (1), in the position where it is turned down to form a drainage channel (4), cooperates at each of its longitudinal ends with a retaining clip (14,14') fixed on the wall (3) of the vat, each of said clips (14,14') preferably being in the form of a portion of profiled element either containing or not containing holes, having a sectional shape substantially similar to that of the element (1) and defining an end of the corresponding drainage channel (4) together with the wall (3) of the vat.

12. Unit according to claim 11, characterised in that in the turned-down position the profiled element (1) is assembled, on the one hand, at one of its longitudinal ends with the corresponding clip (14) by means of a connecting member (28) interlocked with said end and applied to and partly covering said clip (14), and, on the other hand, at its other longitudinal end with the corresponding clip (14'), the connecting member (28) and clip (14) having cooperating assembly locations arranged facing each other when said other end is fitted into said clip (14').

13. Draining unit according to any one of claims 1 to 12, characterised in that each latching means is formed by two members (7 and 7'), one (7) of which is interlocked with the profiled element (1) and the other of which is interlocked with wall (3) of the vat, the two members (7,7') being capable of being inter-engaged to lock the profiled element (1) in position and disengaged through translation of said profiled element (1) in opposite directions.

14. Unit according to claim 13, characterised in that each latching means firstly comprises a plate (7) fixed on the profiled, trough-shaped element (1) so as to be located in the drainage channel (4) when the element (1) is turned down against the wall (3) of the vat, and having an indentation defining an eyelet (9), and secondly comprises an anchoring stud or pin (7') with a head (10), the radial dimensions of which are larger than those of the eyelet (9), the profiled element (1) advantageously being equipped with a plurality of regularly spaced plates (7) designed to cooperate with a plurality of corresponding studs or pins (7').

15. Unit according to any one of claims 1 to 10, characterised in that the profiled element (1) is formed by two separate, aligned and adjoining component parts (1',1''), in which the respective latching means (7,7'') are engaged and disengaged in opposite directions, the first (1') of said parts (1',1'') having a profiled covering member (11), possibly containing holes, at the end of the first part (1') facing the other part (1''), the covering member (11) bearing on and partly extending over the second part (1'') when the two parts (1' and 1'') are turned down against the wall (3) of the vat, and defining the portion of drainage channel (4) in the space separating the two parts (1' and 1'') in their latched positions.

16. Unit according to claim 15, characterised in that the covering member (11) has a sectional shape substantially similar to that of the two parts (1' and 1'') and is provided with a catch hole (12), and that the second part (1'') is provided with a retractable locking stud or finger at its end facing the first part (1'), said hole (12) and said finger or stud (13) being located in a mutually coincident configuration, enabling the finger or stud (13) to extend into or through the hole (12), substantially with corresponding shapes, when the first and second parts (1' and 1'') are in their respective latching positions.

17. Unit according to any one of claims 15 and 16, characterised in that each of the two component parts (1' and 1''), in its respective latched position, is engaged at its end opposite the end near the other part (1'' and 1'), below or in a retaining clip (14,14') fixed on the wall (3) of the vat, each of the clips (14,14') preferably being in the form of a portion of profiled element either containing or not containing holes, having a sectional shape substantially similar to that of said component parts (1',1''), and defining an end of the corresponding drainage channel (4) together with the wall (3) of the vat.

18. Unit according to any one of claims 5 and 6, characterised in that the element (1) or each of the two parts (1',1'') forming the element (1) is associated, with a view to locking it in an open position, with at least one holding device (15) firstly comprising a lower portion (16) forming a base and being engaged with or anchored on the member (7') of the latching means (7,7'') interlocked with the wall (3) of the vat and possibly bearing on the wall, and secondly comprising an upper portion (17) carrying a means (18) for engaging the member (7) of the latching means (7,7'') interlocked with the element (1) or part (1',1'') in question, preferably a retaining pin (18) having an enlarged head (18') which engages in the indentation or an indentation (9) in said member (7).

19. Unit according to claim 18, characterised in that the engagement means (18) comprises a retaining pin mounted movably in the upper portion (17) of the holding device (15) in question and equipped with a means (19) for latching said pin (18) in a retracted position for retaining the element (1) or part (1',1'') in question, and with a resilient means (19') which urges said pin (18) into a stretched, releasing position.

20. Unit according to any one of claims 5 and 6, characterised in that the element (1) or each part (1',1'') is associated with at least one holding device (15) to lock it in an open position, the holding device (15) comprising a supporting structure (20) extending above said element (1) or part (1',1''), bearing on the internal wall (3) of the vat and having a catch means (21), preferably with resilient properties, which comes into engagement at the side edge (5) which is not interlocked with the wall (3) by the pivot connection (6) and is lifted off the wall (3) when the drainage channel (4) in question is opened.

21. Unit according to any one of claims 5 and 6, characterised in that the element (1) or each part (1',1'') is held in the open position by a holding device (15) common to a plurality of elements (1) or parts (1',1''), the holding device (15) comprising a supporting member (22) in the form of an elongated element with curvature substantially similar to that of the internal wall (3) of the vat and provided with feet (23), which may be adjustable, designed to come to bear on the internal wall (3), and further equipped with a plurality of catch means (24), preferably with resilient properties, designed to come into engagement at the side edges (5') of the various elements (1) or parts (1',1'') in order to hold them in an open position.

22. Unit according to any one of claims 5 and 6, characterised in that each holding device (15) comprises a magnetic stud fixed either movably or immovably on the internal wall (3) of the vat.

23. Press, particularly a pneumatic press, including a vat, preferably a cylindrical one, provided over part of its internal wall with draining means extending parallel with the longitudinal direction of the vat and designed to recover the juices from the pressed materials and direct them towards collecting and outlet orifices, characterised in that the draining means comprise draining units according to any one of claims 1 to 22.